

## **Docket #0132, An Ordinance Regarding the Reduction of Plastic Bags in Boston**

### **Summary:**

- This proposal would amend the City of Boston Code Chapter 17 by adding new sections that would reduce the use of disposable checkout bags by retail establishments in Boston
- The ban would not apply to bags used for loose produce, laundry/dry-cleaner bags, newspaper bags, and bags used to wrap frozen foods, meat or fish (to contain moisture)
- Check out bags must be reusable, recyclable paper, or compostable plastic
  - o *See definitions under 17-19.2(g), (e), and (d)*
- Stores providing checkout bags must sell them for at least \$0.05 per bag (money is kept by the store)
- Checkout bag charges must be stated separately on the receipt
- Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space may promulgate rules and regulations; enforces/issues violations
- Violations:
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> = warning notice
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> (within 1 year) = \$50
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> and subsequent (within 1 year) = \$100/violation
- A store may apply for a 1 year exemption based on “undue hardship” (as limited and defined in ordinance)
  - o *See circumstances under 17-19.5(a)*